

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A preparation Preparation—of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. for use as a medicament.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A preparation Preparation according to claim 1, comprising live *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. or the membrane fraction of said bacteria.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A pharmaceutical Pharmaceutical preparation comprising a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. and one or more excipients.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plasma Plasma—cholesterol-lowering agent comprising a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp.
5. (ORIGINAL) Use of a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. for the production of a medicament for lowering plasma cholesterol.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A food Feed—supplement with cholesterol-lowering properties, comprising a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp.
7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A food Feed—supplement according to claim 6 wherein said preparation comprises the membrane fraction or live or freeze-dried bacteria.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A probiotic Prebiotic—with cholesterol-lowering properties containing a preparation of live *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp.
9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Foodstuff comprising a food supplement according to claim 6—or 7.
10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method Methed—for the production of a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp., comprising culturing one or more cells of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. to a multi-cellular culture, harvesting said culture, and processing the cells of said culture into a preparation.
11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method Methed—according to claim 10, involving processing the cells of said culture into a preparation of live *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp.
12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method Methed—for the production of a food supplement according to claim 6—or 7, comprising making suitable for consumption a preparation—according to claim 1 or 2. of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. for use as a medicament with or without live *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. or the membrane fraction of said bacteria.
13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method Methed—for the production of a foodstuff—according to claim 9, comprising incorporating a food supplement according to claim 6 or 7 into a foodstuff.

14. (NEW) Foodstuff comprising a food supplement according to claim 7.

15. (NEW) A method for the production of a food supplement according to claim 7, comprising making suitable for consumption a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. for use as a medicament with or without live *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. or the membrane fraction of said bacteria.

16. (NEW) A method for the production of a foodstuff, comprising incorporating a food supplement according to claim 7 into a foodstuff.